


February 2, 2009

1171 Ambrose Creek Rd
Stevensville, MT 59870

Mr. Ohnstad
County Road Department
Hamilton, MT

Dear Mr. Ohnstad:

I live on Ambrose Creek Road, east of the Lone Rock school road and I enjoy walking and riding my horses on the Ambrose Creek Road, particularly to the east. I do try to contribute a little by picking up litter along the road when I walk up the road.

There are two cattle guards on the road past the powerline crossing on the road. There is no gate at these cattle guards to allow passage of horses. Now that my dogs are getting old, one is over 14 years old, they are also not able to navigate over the cattle guard.

I would like to ask if it would be possible to get 2 gates installed that would allow horses with people to pass through each of the cattle guards and go up the road. Is this something the county would do? I would be willing to help with the installation if permission would be granted.

One time I did go through the only gate available at the upper cattle guard, which was quite a distance (100') from the road. The land owner told me they did not appreciate me going through the gate, which I closed behind me, because it was on their property.

There is a gate below the lower cattle guard that is closer to the road, but still involves crossing private property to get back to the road above the cattle guard.

I do feel if motorized vehicles have the right to pass on this road, people on horse back and walking with dogs (I do walk with my dogs on a leash) should have the right to travel also. Also, at least two of my neighbors have said they would like to have access for themselves and their horses to travel up this road.

I would like to know what the county policy is on this question, realizing it may be specific to the easement granted for use of this road. If you could answer my question above I would appreciate it. Also if I can help by researching easements or contacting landowners, please let me know.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Ballard
cc: email to county commissioner Rokosch, Driscoll